

# DAILY BULLETIN

DECEMBER 6, 2004

## DANFORTH RESIGNS AS U.S. AMBASSADOR TO UNITED NATIONS

Thanked Bush for opportunity to work on Iraq, Sudan  
1

## SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TOMMY THOMPSON RESIGNS

Bush praises his work on bioterrorism, fight against HIV/  
AIDS ..... 2

## IRAQ AID PROGRAM LARGEST IN USAID HISTORY, AGENCY'S HEAD SAYS

\$5 billion program includes short- and long-term  
projects ..... 3

## U.S. OFFICIALS BRIEF FOREIGN PRESS ON CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

United States plans active role in Buenos Aires climate  
conference ..... 4

## U.S. OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE ACTIONS TO CONSERVE CORAL REEFS

United States also plans to re-establish multi-agency  
marine debris committee ..... 5

## DANFORTH RESIGNS AS U.S. AMBASSADOR TO UNITED NATIONS

Thanked Bush for opportunity to work on Iraq,  
Sudan

John Danforth, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, submitted his resignation to President Bush on December 3.

Bush called Danforth "a man of strong convictions and deep integrity who has made our country better and stronger" and specifically commended Danforth's service as special envoy for peace in the Sudan in 2001, saying, "the world is closer than ever to seeing an end to the Sudanese North-South conflict," because of Danforth's "tireless efforts."

In a letter to Bush dated November 22, Danforth said that he appreciated the opportunity to serve at the United Nations, "especially as we attempt to enlist greater U.N. participation in the future of Iraq, and as we advance the interest you have personally shown in helping the desperate people of Sudan."

Danforth, citing a desire to spend time with his wife of 47 years, has asked to leave his post by January 20, when Bush will be inaugurated into his second term. However, Danforth expressed a willingness to serve Bush again on short-term diplomatic missions as he did in the Sudan.

Prior to his appointment, Danforth -- a lawyer and ordained Episcopalian priest --served three terms as a Republican Senator from Missouri. In July, Danforth

succeeded former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John D. Negroponte. Negroponte is currently the U.S. ambassador to Iraq.

A replacement for Danforth has not yet been named.

Below find President Bush's statement on the resignation of Ambassador Danforth:

December 3, 2004

Jack Danforth has served with distinction as United States Ambassador to the United Nations. He represented our Nation ably and well during a time when we are waging a global war on terror. Because of his tireless efforts as Special Envoy to the Sudan, the world is closer than ever to seeing an end to the Sudanese North-South conflict. Throughout his life, including as a distinguished United States Senator and as Attorney General of Missouri, Jack Danforth has been a man of strong convictions and deep integrity who has made our country better and stronger. I understand his desire to return home to Missouri, and I thank Jack for his superb service and his friendship. I wish Sally and him all the best.

#### SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TOMMY THOMPSON RESIGNS

Bush praises his work on bioterrorism, fight against HIV/AIDS

Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson announced December 3 that he is resigning his post. President Bush has not yet named his successor.

Bush praised Thompson as a "stalwart member of my homeland security team." The president cited Thompson's contributions to the U.S. response to the threat of bioterrorism and his help in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the United States and abroad.

Bush also praised Thompson for his work to improve the Medicare health insurance program for older Americans by adding prescription-drug coverage and for his other efforts to modernize and improve federal health programs.

Following is the transcript of President Bush's statement on Thompson's resignation:

December 3, 2004

I have known Tommy Thompson for many years -- first when we served as Governors and then as my Secretary of Health and Human Services. He is a friend and a true public servant who worked every day to make Americans healthier and to help more Americans in need achieve the dream of independence and personal responsibility.

He worked to modernize and add prescription drug coverage to Medicare for the first time in the program's history. He focused on expanding services to seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income Americans. He led the effort to broaden the network of community health centers across our country and to advance the development and use of health information technology. Throughout his career as Governor and as Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy has led efforts to reform welfare laws and help more people transition from welfare to work.

Tommy has been a stalwart member of my homeland security team, especially through his contributions to our Nation's response to the threat of bioterrorism. And he has done a superb job in our compassionate mission of helping those here and abroad fight the scourge of the HIV/AIDS virus.

Tommy served as Governor of Wisconsin for 14 years and has served as Secretary of Health and Human Services for four years, and I appreciate his desire to tackle new challenges. I wish Tommy and Sue Ann all the best.

## IRAQ AID PROGRAM LARGEST IN USAID HISTORY, AGENCY'S HEAD SAYS

\$5 billion program includes short- and long-term projects

By Kathryn McConnell  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- In Iraq, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is carrying out the largest reconstruction program in the organization's history, according to its administrator.

Andrew Natsios told a media briefing at the State Department December 3 that the estimated \$5 billion program includes both immediate and ongoing assistance, and that USAID is supporting the process leading up to elections in January 2005. This includes organizing public meetings on democratic principles, distributing voter registration kits and helping to establish local governance councils and an independent election administration, he said.

One of USAID's early successes in the country was establishing a public food distribution system that is benefiting the entire population, Natsios said. Under the Saddam Hussein regime, access to food was politicized, a system that continually left many people hungry, he said.

Other successful early efforts have been in the rehabilitation of the public services, health and education sectors, Natsios said. USAID also is helping to expand economic opportunities in the country and improve the efficiency and accountability of Iraq's government, he said.

Prior to hostilities, the aid official said, electric power service outside of Baghdad was "barely functional" -- only three hours a day in Basra, for example. USAID has now "evened out" power distribution throughout the country, providing 5,000 megawatts of power a day and building to a capacity of 6,000 megawatts daily by summer 2005, he said.

The aid agency has rehabilitated several major wastewater treatment plants, stopping the discharge of raw sewage into the Tigris River, Natsios said.

It also has rehabilitated major water treatment plants and pumping stations across Iraq, according to a USAID report distributed at the briefing. One result is that an ad

ditional 50 million gallons of potable water is available in Baghdad every day, the report said.

Other accomplishments have been the major reconstruction of airports in Baghdad and Basra and the rebuilding of bridges along major transportation routes, the agency said.

The USAID-rehabilitated port of Um Qasr, once clogged with tons of sludge, now unloads 50 ships a day, Natsios said.

Among USAID's accomplishment in the health sector have been vaccinating more than three million children and providing nutrition supplements to more than 200,000 pregnant women, the agency said.

USAID has refurbished thousands of schools and health care centers and provided skills training to teachers, school administrators, physicians and primary health care providers around the country, Natsios said.

Five universities in the United States already have partnered with universities in Iraq, helping to open access to education resources that for decades had been blocked, Natsios said. These education partnerships have resulted in an emergence of Internet cafes in many of Iraq's universities providing access to information from and about the world, he said.

The aid agency is helping to build Iraq's economic infrastructure by providing, in the short-term, reconstruction jobs to residents and, for the long-term, vocational training and links to employment centers, Natsios said.

USAID also has been concentrating on reform of the agriculture sector, Natsios said.

He said USAID has established several date palm nurseries and has been testing new seed varieties. Iraq has "some of the best soil in the Arab world, but it had been neglected," he said.

## U.S. OFFICIALS BRIEF FOREIGN PRESS ON CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

United States plans active role in Buenos Aires climate conference

U.S. State Department and Department of Energy (DOE) officials gave international reporters an overview of U.S. global climate change policy December 2, in advance of the December 6-17 10th Conference of the Parties (COP-10) to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

At the Foreign Press Center in Washington, Harlan Watson, senior climate negotiator and special representative from the State Department, and David Conover, director of the DOE Climate Change Technology Program, answered questions about the U.S. approach to climate change, the Kyoto Protocol, U.S. expectations for COP-10, and the Bush administration's position on global warming.

The Kyoto Protocol is an amendment to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, an international treaty on global warming. Countries that ratify this protocol commit to reduce their emissions of carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases linked to global warming or to engage in emissions trading if they maintain or increase emissions of these gases. The protocol will come into force February 16, 2005.

Watson said about 40 U.S. delegates would take active parts in the conference, representing agencies such as the State Department, DOE, the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The United States chose not to be a party to the Kyoto Protocol, Watson said, because "the terms that the previous administration had agreed to would require the United States reduce its emissions by approximately 30 percent, and there's no way the United States could have done that without severely impacting the economy."

Another issue, he said, "is that we do not believe the Kyoto Protocol is an effective measure because it excludes any obligations from developing countries, either now or in the future, to take actions to reduce their emissions."

Watson said the Bush administration takes the climate change issue seriously. "We're spending a lot of money on the science -- \$2 billion annually to address the science and ... over \$3 billion in a variety of programs, both research and development and deployment programs, to address the problem."

Topics of particular interest to the United States at COP-10, Watson added, are adaptation to climate change and discussions for commitments beyond the 2008-2012 Kyoto period. Those discussions are set to begin in 2005.

"Climate throughout the ages is always changing in one way or the other, so it's very important that people are able to prepare themselves for floods, droughts and so on," Watson said, particularly in developing countries.

Because the impacts of climate variability are local or regional in magnitude, it is difficult to forecast potential changes and many technical issues exist in addressing adaptation to global climate changes. The United States wants to help the COP-10 move forward on the issue, he said.

In terms of negotiations beyond 2012, Watson said the United States thinks "[I]t's not advisable to move forward yet, for a variety of reasons."

Compared to the progress of other countries in reducing greenhouse emissions, Watson added, the United States is out in front. "During the period from 2000 to 2002, which is the time that this president could impact, our emissions have declined by approximately 1 percent," he said. "That's not a record many [countries] could match."

DOE's Conover added that preliminary figures for 2003 show a "slight growth" in emissions but a decline in greenhouse gas intensity. The intensity to which Conover referred is a measurement of greenhouse gas emissions per pound of production.

"We really believe we're making headway on reducing the growth of emissions," Watson said.

## U.S. OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE ACTIONS TO CONSERVE CORAL REEFS

United States also plans to re-establish multi-agency marine debris committee

President Bush will request \$2.7 million to support state and local coral conservation efforts of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF), according to a December 2 press release from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

James Connaughton, chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), and NOAA administrator Conrad Lautenbacher, under secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere, made the announcement December 2 at the USCRTF meeting in Miami, Florida.

At the meeting, the CEQ and NOAA also announced that NOAA, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Coast Guard and the departments of Interior and State agreed to re-establish an Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee to reduce marine debris from all sources.

Information on local action strategies can be found at <http://www.coralreef.gov/lastrategy.cfm>.

Text of the NOAA press release follows:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Press release, December 2, 2004

White House Council on Environmental Quality, NOAA and Interior Announce Actions to Conserve Coral Reefs

President Bush will request \$2.7 million to support state and local coral conservation efforts to implement local action strategies developed by the states, territories and commonwealths that make up the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force. James L. Connaughton, chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, and retired Navy Vice Adm. Conrad C. Lautenbacher, under secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and national oceanic and atmospheric administration administrator made the announcement today at the USCRTF meeting in Miami.

“Coral reefs are international treasures protected by local stewards. President Bush is requesting this funding to implement the local action strategies to facilitate lasting

conservations results,” said Connaughton in announcing the new funding at the December meeting of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force.

“We’re proud of the accomplishments to date of this federal, state, and territory partnership, and this money will help implement locally developed coral reef conservation measures,” said Lautenbacher. “The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy highlighted the importance of ecosystem-based management and these local action strategies are an excellent example of how we can work across jurisdictions to achieve that goal.”

“If we are going to succeed in protecting and restoring our coral reefs, we must work in close partnership with local communities,” said Assistant Secretary of the Interior Craig Manson, who is co-chair of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force. “The funding requested by President Bush will empower these communities to conserve these sensitive ecosystems. It will enable the interior department to develop more effective partnerships with states and local communities to deal with specific threats such as pollution, groundings and overharvest that vary from reef to reef.”

Local action strategies are three-year locally-driven road maps for collaborative and cooperative action among stakeholders which identify and implement priority actions needed to reduce key threats. The threats to coral reef resources vary from location to location and can range from overfishing to lack of public awareness. More information on local action strategies can be found at <http://www.coralreef.gov/lastrategy.cfm>.

At the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting, the CEQ and NOAA also announced that:

NOAA, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of State have agreed to re-establish an Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee. The committee will focus on reducing marine debris from all sources, and will examine specific marine debris problems such as derelict fishing gear. Marine debris has a harmful effect on coral reefs and other valuable marine resources. Reconvening this committee was a recommendation of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.

NOAA, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental

stewardship of the nation's coastal and marine resources.

On the Web: NOAA:  
<http://www.noaa.gov/>

White House Council on Environmental Policy:  
<http://www.ocean.ceq.gov/>

**Pleases Note:** Most texts and transcript mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage: **[www.usmission.ch](http://www.usmission.ch)**

Select "Washington File" from the top menu bar.